

1851

Report of the Female Medical Education Society, from November, 1848, to December, 1850; containing the charter, constitution, by-laws, names of officers and members, together with information respecting the Boston Female Medical School and the proposed clinical hospital, which is to form a part of the Institution, &c.

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REPORT

OF THE

FEMALE MEDICAL EDUCATION

SOCIETY,

FROM NOVEMBER, 1848, TO DECEMBER, 1850;

CONTAINING

*The Charter, Constitution, By-Laws, Names of Officers and Members, together
with information respecting the Boston Female Medical School
and the proposed Clinical Hospital, which is to
form a part of the Institution, &c.*

BOSTON:

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY.

AND TO BE HAD GRATUITOUSLY OF THE SECRETARY, SAMUEL GREGORY, OR THE
TREASURER, JOHN P. JEWETT, AT THE SOCIETY'S OFFICE, 17 CORNHILL.

1851.

LIBRARY
BOSTON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE FEMALE MEDICAL EDUCATION SOCIETY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

SECTION 1. Timothy Gilbert, William I. Bowditch, and Samuel Gregory, their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation, by the name of the Female Medical Education Society, for the purpose of providing for the education of Midwives, Nurses, and Female Physicians, with all the powers and privileges, and subject to all the duties, restrictions, and liabilities set forth in the forty-fourth and thirty-eighth chapters of the Revised Statutes.

SECTION 2. Said corporation may hold, for the purpose aforesaid, real estate, not exceeding Fifty Thousand Dollars, and personal estate not exceeding Fifty Thousand Dollars.

House of Representatives, April 29, 1850.

Passed to be enacted.

ENSIGN H. KELLOGG, Speaker.

In Senate, April 30, 1850.

Passed to be enacted.

MARSHALL P. WILDER, President.

April 30, 1850. Approved.

GEO. N. BRIGGS.

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Wright & Husty, Printers,  
3 Water Street.



# FEMALE MEDICAL EDUCATION SOCIETY.

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## CONSTITUTION.

### ARTICLE I.

The object of this Society is to provide for and promote the education of Midwives, Nurses, and Female Physicians, and to diffuse among women generally a knowledge of physiology, and the principles and means of preserving and restoring health.

### ARTICLE II.

To accomplish this object, the Society shall establish and maintain, in Boston, a Female Medical School, and, in connection with it, as soon as funds permit, a Hospital for the accommodation of charity and other patients, and to afford the pupils practice in the department of midwifery, in nursing the sick, and in the treatment of the diseases of women and children.

### ARTICLE III.

The Officers of this Society shall be a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Board of Seven Directors, of which the three officers named shall be, ex-officio, members,—the President and Secretary of the Society being also President and Secretary of the Board of Directors.

### ARTICLE IV.

The Officers shall be chosen annually, by ballot, at the yearly meeting of the Society; a majority of the votes cast being required to secure the election of the several candidates. The Officers shall have power to fill any vacancies that may occur in their Board, and shall hold their office till others are appointed.



## ARTICLE V.

There shall also be seven Directresses,—to be appointed by the Directors; whose duty it shall be to assist in conducting the internal affairs of the Hospital, the selection of females proper to be admitted to its privileges and its charities; and in all suitable ways to aid in promoting the objects of the Society.

## ARTICLE VI.

Any person may become a member of this Society, by subscribing, or directing his or her name to be affixed to the Constitution, and paying One Dollar; and continue a member by the payment of this sum annually. Any person may become a life-member by the payment of Twenty Dollars.

## ARTICLE VII.

Members of the Society shall be entitled to copies of its Annual Reports, and any other documents designed for distribution; and, on appointed days, to free access to the Institution, to examine its Library, Anatomical and Physiological Apparatus, and any other objects of interest that are, or may be accumulated.

## ARTICLE VIII.

The Annual Meetings of the Society shall be held on the first Wednesday in October, and special meetings may be called by the Directors, when by them deemed necessary. All meetings shall be notified not less than seven days previous to the time of holding them, by advertising in not less than four newspapers published in Boston,—where the meetings of the Society shall be held.

## ARTICLE IX.

This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any meeting of the Society, provided notice of intended amendments be given in the call of the meeting.



## BY-LAWS

## THE PRESIDENT.

The President, and in his absence the senior Director present, shall preside at all meetings of the Society, and of the Board of Directors.

## DIRECTORS.

It shall be the duty of the Directors to attend to the Financial Affairs of the Society, the salaries of its Officers, the appointment and salaries of the Professors in the Institution, the appointment and remuneration of all agents and employees of the Society; the approving of bills, and auditing of accounts; the certificates of applicants for admission to the School; the qualifications for admission and graduation; the appointment of a Board of Examiners; the conferring of Diplomas; the appointment of the Directresses, and the supervision of their proceedings; and, generally, to conduct all the affairs of the Society, and the Institution, and present a Report of the same at the Annual meeting of the Society.

## SECRETARY.

The Secretary shall keep a full and faithful record of the doings of the Society, and of the Board of Directors, in separate books; and shall present a report of each respective meeting at the next meeting of the Society, or of the Directors. He shall keep a list of the names and residences of the members, and donors; shall notify all meetings of the Society, and of the Directors, as may be ordered by the latter; and shall perform whatever other services may be required of him by the Directors, for promoting the objects of the Association.

## TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall give bonds in such form and in such amount as the Board shall require, and shall receive and safely keep all monies entrusted to his care, and disburse the same as prescribed by the Directors. He shall have charge of



all funds, and property, of whatever nature, belonging to the Society; and shall keep a faithful record of its property, its receipts and expenditures; and shall present an audited account of the same at the Annual meeting of the Society, or at any meeting of the Directors, when by them requested. The books kept by the Secretary and Treasurer shall at all times be open to the inspection of any of the Officers of the Society.

#### MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS.

A meeting of the Directors shall be held on the first Monday of each month, and a majority shall constitute a quorum. Special meetings may be called by the Secretary, when requested thereto by the President, or by a majority of the Directors. A written notice of each meeting shall be sent to each Director by the Secretary, at least one day previous to the time of holding the meeting.

#### DIRECTRESSES.

It shall be the duty of the Directresses to assist in conducting the internal affairs of the Hospital, the selection and admission of patients, the collection of funds, and in all suitable ways to coöperate with the Directors in promoting the objects of the Society. To aid in the performance of the duties thus devolving upon them, the Directresses may appoint from their own number a President, and Secretary, and hold meetings of their Board, or of the female members of the Society. They may also make arrangements to have lectures, or courses of lectures on physiology, hygiene, &c., delivered by the Professors in the School, or by other persons, to the ladies of the Society, and any others they may admit. The proceedings of all meetings of ladies of the Society, and of the Directresses, shall be recorded by their Secretary, and a report of the same be presented to the Directors when by them requested.

#### AMENDMENTS.

These By-Laws may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any meeting of the Society, provided notice of intended amendments be given in the call of the meeting.



# FEMALE MEDICAL EDUCATION SOCIETY.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS.

N. B. The payment of Twenty Dollars constitutes a person a Life-Member. Persons who may pay this amount in sums of \$5, or \$10, at *different* times, annually or otherwise, will become Life-Members when the whole fee of \$20 is paid in; and those who have given \$5 or more can make themselves Life-Members by contributing the *balance* of the fee.

The following subscriptions, though not large, show a liberal disposition; many of them having been given when the donors, with the best wishes in regard to the enterprise, had some doubts of its success. But now, that the object has had a probation of between three and four years, has been sanctioned by the Legislature of the State, and cordially approved by the public generally, and complete success is *certain*, it is hoped that persons favored with means and benevolent dispositions will bear in mind that the Society, in order to carry out its plans of usefulness, must raise at least *One Hundred Thousand Dollars*—the amount specified in the Act of Incorporation.

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Jonas Chickering, \$50  
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[Most of the following named persons have made themselves members by subscribing, or directing their names to be affixed to the Constitution, and paying the fee; and all are entitled to be members, having paid an equal or larger amount. Something over one hundred and thirty of the gentlemen and ladies named have each given Five Dollars, or more, and by contributing the balance of the fee, they will become Life-Members,—which it is hoped many of them will be pleased to do.]

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## THE SOCIETY.

The Female Medical Education Society was organized November 23, 1848,—commencing with six members. This number having been increased to a thousand or more during the following year, the Society petitioned the Legislature for an Act of Incorporation. A few honorable members of the Senate felt it their duty to oppose the idea of giving the sanction of the Legislature to such a novelty,—to an innovation upon our established customs,—to a misguided movement, aiming to subvert some of our most important domestic institutions; aye, and fearfully tending to endanger the physical and moral well-being of society itself!

The petitioners, however, felt much obliged to these gentlemen for thus making it necessary for the members to investigate the question. The three hundred and forty members of the two branches were each supplied with documents upon the subject; and several spirited discussions of the question arose in the Senate, at the different stages of the Bill; the number of objectors becoming smaller and smaller, till finally only four voted against the passage of the Act. The object having thus approved itself to the cool and conservative Senate, no one ventured to stand in the way of the Bill in the House of Representatives, where it passed without a dissenting voice.

The Society now numbers some fifteen hundred members, and this number is every day increasing. The reason why the smaller part of them are ladies, is not that they less cordially approve of the objects of the Association, but that comparatively few of them have been applied to. The gentlemen, having been heretofore the only depositaries of the medical and historical knowledge requisite to judge of the practicability of the scheme, have, as in duty bound, made a beginning in rearing this Institution, which is to be a monument to humanity and propriety; but, like that of Bunker Hill, it will require the ladies to complete it. Indeed, they have already done nobly, not only in giving their aid and influence, but above all in exhibiting, under the circumstances, an admirable degree of independence and good sense.



## FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE SOCIETY.

For the want of room to give particulars, it may be stated, generally, that the receipts of the Society from its members and patrons, and from the tuition of the pupils, have been about three thousand dollars; two thirds of which sum has been expended for advertising the terms, for instruction in the School, rent of house, and commission to agents. The most of the other third has been expended in gratuitous public lectures by the Secretary, in various parts of New England; in publishing and distributing pamphlets, and more than a hundred thousand circulars of various kinds to promote the object, (many of which documents and circulars have been sent pre-paid through the Post Office), and in defraying the miscellaneous expenses of the Society. The balance, being the only means at their disposal, the Directors have paid to the Secretary—who has given his exclusive attention to this object for the past three and a half years.

**NAMES OF MEMBERS.**—Quite a number of names have been omitted for want of space; some have doubtless been overlooked or misprinted, and corrections and additions will be made in future reports, or other editions of this.

Persons will hereafter please be particular in giving their names and residences. It is desirable that the *first* name be given in full; and married ladies will do well to give their husband's names, as documents sent to their address will thus more promptly reach them. It is hoped that many persons will *volunteer* to send in their names and fee of membership, or larger sums, by mail or otherwise, as this will prevent the diminution of their favors by the expense of agency. It is practicable to increase this Society to a hundred thousand members in New England alone.

It will be seen by the Constitution that persons can be members for a single year; and it will be at their option to continue longer; though if they should learn from the annual report that the Institution was in need of further aid, many would doubtless take pleasure in continuing their fee—which it is hoped the present members will do.

**LIFE-MEMBERS.**—In the next Annual Report, at the end of the Society's year, October 1851, it is believed that a long list of Life-Members will be reported. These fees, with those of annual members, will very much aid the funds of the Society. Ladies or gentlemen who may annually give a quarter, or half of the fee of twenty dollars, can thereby become Life-Members when the whole is paid in.

**AGENTS**—As in such Societies the public are liable to be imposed upon by self-constituted agents, it is here stated, that no one is authorized as an Agent of this Society who cannot show a written certificate, signed by the President and Secretary.

**ADDRESS.**—Communications can be addressed to "Samuel Gregory, Sec'y F. M. E. Society, 17 Cornhill, Boston." Remittances can be sent to the Secretary or Treasurer.

The Secretary will be happy to wait upon or correspond with persons, residing in Boston or elsewhere, who may signify a desire for further information.

"**LETTER TO LADIES, IN FAVOR OF FEMALE PHYSICIANS,** for their own Sex, by Samuel Gregory, A. M., Secretary of the Female Medical Education Society."

The above is the title of a pamphlet of 48 pages, advocating the objects of the Society, and containing much interesting historical and other information, relating to the past and the present, to our own and other countries. It can be had of the Secretary or Treasurer. Price 12 1-2 cents, single; sixteen copies for \$1, or \$6 a hundred.

## BOSTON FEMALE MEDICAL SCHOOL.

THE first term of this School commenced November 1st, 1848, with a class of twelve pupils. There have since been two terms of three months each annually, commencing on the first Wednesday in November, and April. The pupils have numbered over fifty, and have come from all the New England states, New York, and Ohio.

The larger part of the pupils, having devoted their attention exclusively to the department of Obstetrics, with its collateral duties, are already somewhat extensively employed, having attended in the aggregate near a thousand cases, and with the most satisfactory success. Others are studying with a view to become thoroughly qualified Female Physicians, and thus be able to administer to their sex, and to enlighten them in relation to the principles of health, and the means of preventing and relieving sickness and suffering. Among these is a young lady of accomplished education, daughter of a Rev. Doctor of Divinity, who is setting a noble example by qualifying herself for this most appropriate and important sphere of usefulness. There will not be wanting women of talent, education, Christian principle, and true refinement, to volunteer where duty, humanity, and propriety so emphatically call. And large numbers of such are, and will be needed, to furnish and continue a supply in New England alone.



**THE PRESENT LOCATION OF THE SCHOOL.**—The house of Dr. Winslow Lewis, (President of the Boylston Medical School,\*) at the foot of the Common, corner of Boylston and Carver Streets, has been leased to the F. M. E. Society, for the use of the Boston Female Medical School, during Dr. L's absence in Europe, for two or more years. Dr. Lewis leaves his house, as occupied by himself, completely and elegantly furnished throughout; his office containing a choice Medical Library of about three thousand volumes, and of six thousand dollars value, (some volumes of plates costing over a hundred dollars each,) also anatomical apparatus, &c., &c.

To place the Institution on a permanent basis, the Society propose to raise, as soon as possible, *One Hundred Thousand Dollars*,—the amount specified in the Act of Incorporation; a portion to provide a building for the School and Hospital, a library, anatomical and physiological apparatus, &c., &c., and the remainder to constitute a fund to support the Hospital. The Tuition-money will be needed to defray the expense of instruction. Should a hundred, or two hundred thousand dollars be needed, it will be a trifling sum compared with the peculiar importance of the object, and the ability of the public.

When the School and Hospital shall be fully established, they will not be inferior to any Institutions of the kind in Europe; where they are provided by the governments of the various countries.

One well-provided establishment of the kind will be sufficient for the whole of New England, and, if necessary, accommodate pupils from other sections of the country. It will be for the advantage of the whole Commonwealth, and of New England, to have it located in Boston, on account of convenience of access, and because it requires a large city to furnish the Hospital with patients. Hence persons out of Boston, and of the State, will of course be disposed to aid.

The Hospital will not only serve for educational purposes, by affording the pupils practical knowledge, but will be a most important charitable institution, for the accommodation of large numbers of *virtuous* poor women, who now have to pass their critical periods amid poverty and distress in damp and unwholesome residences of the city.

There may also be suitable apartments which ladies of ample means, but limited accommodations in their "boarding places," would desire to occupy, on account of the superior qualifications of the presiding professional women and the nurses, and the accumulation of conveniences and resources for all ordinary and extraordinary circumstances.

The department for the treatment of female diseases, by learned and skillful Doctresses, will be resorted to, for early advice and prompt relief, by thousands whose cases would be past remedy before they would apply to *gentlemen* for confidential consultation and familiar treatment. An *untold* amount of suffering has been endured because medical science has paid no regard to that inborn feeling which is, and ever should be, the pervading sentiment of the female character.

It is very important that this Hospital should be commenced as soon as possible, as the pupils of the School need *practice*, in connection with their study and lectures. A dwelling house of fifteen or twenty rooms would answer for the present; and the Society only needs the means, to rent such a one immediately.

The School is also very much in need of a thousand dollars' worth of anatomical and physiological apparatus, to facilitate the imparting of instruction. Some articles have been borrowed and hired with much effort and inconvenience, for the want of means to purchase. It is however believed, that when the subject is properly understood, it will be appreciated and abundantly aided.

\* **HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL.** The Corporation of Harvard College, and the Professors in the Medical Department of the Institution, located in this city—the Board of Instruction consisting of Drs. Walter Channing, Jacob Bigelow, John Ware, John S. B. Jackson, Oliver W. Holmes, Henry J. Bigelow, and E. N. Horsford—have recently given their testimony in favor of the Medical Education of Females, by deciding to admit a female pupil to that Institution, for the term of 1850-1.

The application was however withdrawn; the Students having, among other Resolutions, (as published in the Boston Transcript,) "*Resolved*, That no woman of true delicacy would be willing, in the presence of men, to listen to the discussion of the subjects that necessarily come under the consideration of the student of medicine. *Resolved*, That we are not opposed to allowing woman her rights, but do protest against her appearing in places where her presence is calculated to destroy our respect for the modesty and delicacy of her sex."

It must be obvious to every one, that the students were correct in their views, and that propriety, and the "respect" of which they speak, require a separate School and Hospital for the professional education of women; and that *much more* do those considerations require that females *practice* among their own sex.

The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, in speaking of the admission of females to medical colleges with males, says, "We should most decidedly object to the practice, preferring to have all females who wish to become disciples of the healing art, attend separate institutions for their education."

The Harvard Medical School furnishes no facilities in the way of *practice* in a Maternity Hospital—the most important part of an obstetric education.



Since this enterprise started, in this city, in the summer and fall of 1847, by some public lectures in favor of the medical education of females, with a view to establish an Institution for the purpose, the idea has become prevalent throughout the country, and in some instances has been carried into effect,—particularly in the recently started Institution in Philadelphia. And surely the citizens of Boston and New England will not fall behind any other section of the country, in carrying out one of their own educational "notions," and so good a one too!

**TERMS OF THE SCHOOL.**—The Sixth Term of the School will commence April 2, 1851, and continue three months. There are two terms annually, three months from the first Wednesday in April and November. Tuition per term, \$25, payable on entering. Pupils can also continue their studies and receive instruction at the School, during the vacations, at the same rate of tuition. Board can be had in the city at \$2 per week.

**THE COURSE OF STUDY.**—Candidates for Diplomas, as Practitioners in Midwifery, must be at least twenty years of age, and present testimonials of good moral character; they must have studied at least one year, including the Lecture terms; must have attended two full courses of Lectures, one of which must have been in this institution: and must pass a satisfactory examination before the Board of Examiners, in Anatomy and Physiology, in Obstetrics and the diseases peculiar to Women.

Middle-aged women, widows and others, of intelligence, who may be somewhat familiar with the sick room, may succeed well in this department; and on account of the increasing preference for female attendants, this presents to women, of good natural abilities and suitable acquirements, a useful, honorable, and remunerating vocation.

Ladies and gentlemen should select suitable persons, and encourage them, by pecuniary assistance, if necessary, to attend with a view to practice in the towns from which they are sent. Where such a woman cannot be found, if the necessary amount be paid in to the Society, some one will be assisted with it, on condition of locating in the town from which the funds are furnished. As there have been and will be more donations of this kind, females of the requisite qualities, who can bring good references, are hereby invited to apply for such *benefits*.

**MEDICAL DIPLOMAS.**—The candidates for full Medical Diplomas must have pursued a course of Education equivalent to that required in other medical institutions; and at least two terms of their instruction must have been in this School.

**TEXT BOOKS.**—The following or other standard works may be used by the pupils in this School. *Anatomy*,—Wilson, Paxton, Horner. *Physiology*,—Carpenter, Oliver, and others. *Obstetrics*,—Dewees, Churchill, Meigs, Chailly, Velpeau. *Diseases of Women*,—Meigs, Dewees. *Dictionaries*,—Hooper, Dunglison, Gardner. And the standard works on the Practice of Medicine.

**THE LIBRARY.**—The pupils have free access to the Library of the School, containing about three thousand volumes, including many costly volumes of plates.

**PREPARATORY STUDY.**—Persons intending to become members of the School will do well to study, in advance, some elementary work on Anatomy and Physiology—Cutter, Jarvis, &c. And any other preparatory knowledge will be useful.

**PROFESSORS.**—The instruction has thus far chiefly been given by a single Lecturer, Enoch C. Rolfe, M. D., with occasional assistance by others; but as the operations of the Institution extend, the Directors of the Society will secure a sufficient number of medical gentlemen, as permanent Professors and Lecturers in the different departments, with competent Female Instructors, in departments more convenient and appropriate for them.

**APPLICATION** can be made by letter, or personally, to the Secretary, Samuel Gregory, 17 Cornhill, (Bookstore of John P. Jewett & Co.,) or at the School.

**LOCATION OF THE SCHOOL.**—The School is located at the foot of the Common, corner of Boylston and Carver streets. Entrance to the Office, No. 1 Carver street.

**NURSES.**—Courses of Lectures and Instruction will be given to Nurses, in reference to their important and responsible vocation of attending the sick. Particulars may be learned by inquiry at 17 Cornhill, or at the School.

**REGISTRY OF NURSES.**—At the Office of the School may be found a Registry of the names and references of Nurses and "Wet Nurses," wishing places; for consulting which Registry a small fee will be required, though no charge will be made to the nurses themselves.

**VISITORS.**—Ladies or gentlemen, members of the Society and others, wishing to become further acquainted with the Institution and its affairs, are invited to call. A lady will be in attendance in the Office, (or parlor if preferred,) to give ladies who may call any desired information.

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At a Meeting of the Female Medical Education Society, held in Boston, Dec. 10, 1850, the foregoing altered and amended Constitution and By-Laws were adopted, and it was voted that the Secretary prepare, and cause to be published a REPORT, containing the same, together with such other information as might enable the members who were not present, and the public generally, to understand the objects and operations of the Society.

And the same is hereby respectfully submitted.

SAMUEL GREGORY, *Secretary*.

Boston, Dec. 20, 1850.